



PRESS RELEASE

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Brad Benner, X-BAR Named SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Celebration honoring winners on April 29th - Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle Center

SEATTLE – The U.S. Small Business Administration's Seattle District Office has named **Brad Benner, Owner, X-BAR in Seattle** as the **2008 Washington State & Region 10 (WA, OR, ID, AK) Young Entrepreneur of the Year**. As the cloud of the "dot.com" crash hung over the information technology industry, Brad Benner started X-BAR, an IT consulting and support business. His passion for business and technology began in middle school and his interest in IT grew throughout his high school and college years. He ran his first business out of his middle school locker and he was also involved with his parent's software development company.

At the ripe old age of 29 he credits his "entrepreneur gene" to his father. Under SBA's guidelines, to be considered a young entrepreneur, the individual must serve as a majority owner and operate or bear principal responsibility for operating a small business with a three year track record, and who will not have reached the age of 30 by June 1, 2008.

In 2002, Benner began working as an independent IT consultant. As his client list grew, so did his need for an office. In 2002 - using only the revenues provided by his consulting business – he started X-BAR. Benner brings to X-BAR nearly 10 years of technology consulting experience and creative problem-solving. He takes a direct hand in client and project management while serving as X-BAR's lead solution architect and engineer.

X-BAR offers two types of diligent, proactive, and creative IT solutions: the consulting and implementation team crafts forward-thinking, cost effective solutions to support the needs of businesses experiencing growth and a support team provides top-quality support for a client's existing infrastructure. X-BAR is committed to strengthening relationships between technology, the people who use it, and the people who support it. They act as a trusted advisor to ensure their clients' technology infrastructure stays secure and reliable. They always strive to engage with clients on a human level.

"X-BAR isn't just about solving problems through technology, it's about fostering meaningful interaction, creating real value, and contributing to our client's success", says Benner.

X-BAR is part of the metropolitan Seattle business community and is dedicated to serving small and midsize businesses and organizations. Their client list includes: Microsoft, YMCA of Greater Seattle, and Children's Hospital. They are committed to "working green", recycling, supporting mass transit by employees and using resources efficiently. Whenever possible, they diagnose and resolve issues remotely from their office and if needed use the company hybrid car.

Under Seattle's somewhat blue skies, the clouds remain parted while X-BAR's commitment to changing the conversation about information technology remains successful. Brad Benner embodies the spirit of SBA's Young Entrepreneur of the Year award by living the American Dream.

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